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NOTES INCREASE IN MEDICAL CANDIDATES;
URGES HIGHER SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS

The Board of the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR met recently to examine the first reports on the status of students accepted for the first course in the coming year at medical institutions. K. Ya. Shkhvatsabaya, chief of the Administration for Upper Medical Educational Institutions, submitted a summarized report. According to this report, there is a definite increase in the number of medical candidates. There were 18,000 applicants for 6,900 openings. The majority expressed a desire to study at the Moscow, Gor'kiy, and Bashkir medical institutes, and the Leningrad and Moscow stomatological institutes.

Among the applicants were 1,075 holders of awards and medals presented for heroism during World War II. Applicants in this category were admitted without any entrance examination. In view of the large number of applicants only those who made a grade of 18 or more (out of a possible 20 for four examinations) were admitted to the Voronezh, Gor'kiy and Krasnodar institutes, 17 was the minimum passing grade for applicants to the Severo-Osetiya and Sholensk institutes, while a minimum of 13 was necessary for entrance to the Chkalov, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Arkhangel'sk, and Tomsk institutes.

Almost all the institutes have organized a 6-year educational program. This was done to improve the scholastic standard, to give more time to graduate specialization, and to offer medical education to a larger number of students.

The Board noted, however, that in spite of the large increase in applicants for medical education, many of the institutes were accepting students with low educational qualifications. Some of the directors of medical institutions -- Khodkovich of the Tomsk Medical Institute and Mysh of the Irkutsk Medical Institute -- were conducting very formalistic teaching programs and not fulfilling the state programs.

There still seems to be indifference among rural youth toward entering medical institutions. Although they represent only 30 percent of this year's

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applications, it is hoped that in some manner their interest will be increased. It was resolved that for the year 1950 more students should be obtained from a greater number of the republics, and that the responsibility for this should rest with the Dagestan, Bashkir, Kazan, Irkutsk, Severo-Osetiya, and Khabarovsk institutes.

Directors of medical institutes are urged to conduct lectures with an eye to interesting graduates of the 10-year course to enter medical institutions. It was also resolved to inform the Ministry of Education RSFSR that many students going through middle schools are deficient in language, physics, chemistry, and other subjects.

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